

CITY OF TAFT

ORDINANCE NO. 920

POLITICAL CAMPAIGN SIGNS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TAFT, TEXAS PROVIDING STANDARDS, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND PROHIBITIONS FOR PLACING, LOCATING, MAINTAINING, AND ERECTING POLITICAL CAMPAIGN SIGNS IN THE CITY ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, REPEAL OF CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the establishment by the State of two uniform election dates per year has led to the propagation and clutter of political campaign signs on public and private property; and

WHEREAS, if left unrestricted, clutter of such signs decreases the aesthetic qualities of the community and creates a danger to pedestrians and motorists whose line of site may be impaired because of such signs; and

WHEREAS, in order to protect the health and welfare of the citizens of the City of Taft, the City Council of the City of Taft desires to establish standards, procedures, and requirements for the locating, maintaining and erection of political campaign signs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT, TEXAS:

I.

FINDINGS OF FACT

All of the above premises are hereby found to be true and correct legislative and factual findings of the City Council, and are hereby approved and incorporated into the body of this Ordinance as if copied in their entirety.

H.

ADOPTION OF REGULATIONS

Nothing contained herein shall be construed to limit the people's rights of freedom of speech. The following shall be adopted and enacted as an ordinance of the City of Taft:

(a) *Political Campaign Sign* means a sign that advertises a candidate or issue to be voted for on a definite election day. A Political Campaign Sign is associated with a specific election, and is not the same as a sign containing political speech. The person

running for office and/or political party/group placing a political sign is responsible for compliance with these provisions.

(b) Placing a Political Campaign Sign on private property without the permission of the property owner is prohibited.

(c) Political Campaign Signs posted within the City shall not exceed fifty (50) square feet in area.

(d) No application or permit is required in order to place a Political Campaign Sign on public property; however, the City may remove signs not conforming to following criteria:

- (1) No sign or any part thereof may be located within ten (10) feet of any right-of-way line (not to be confused with the curb or pavement line) and within twenty (20) feet of intersecting right-of-way lines. Prohibited signs include signs and supports (other than those placed by the governmental authority such as street name signs) which are located within any public right-of-way.
- (2) No sign may be posted prior to ninety (90) days before the next uniform election date established by state law.
- (3) Signs shall be removed within ten (10) days following the uniform election date.
- (4) No sign may be erected within one hundred (100) feet of any outside door through which a person may enter City Hall.

(e) The City may charge any cost associated with removal of nonconforming signs to the party responsible for the sign.

(f) A person commits an offense if the person violates this ordinance. An offense under this ordinance is a Class C misdemeanor.

III. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall be and become effective immediately upon and after its passage and publication as may be required by governing law.

IV. REPEALER

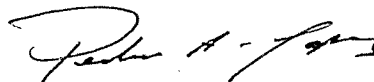
All ordinances or parts of ordinances in force when the provisions of this Ordinance becomes effective which are inconsistent or in conflict with the terms and provisions contained in this Ordinance are hereby repealed only to the extent of such conflict.

V.
SEVERABILITY

Should any part, sentence or phrase of this Ordinance be determined to be unlawful, void or unenforceable, the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance shall not be adversely affected. No portion of this Ordinance shall fail or become inoperative by reason of the invalidity of any other part. All provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable.

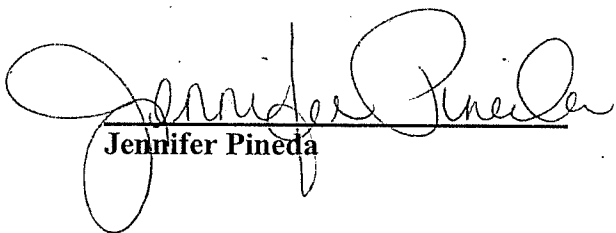
ADOPTED AND APPROVED on this 14 day of November, 2013 by a vote of the City Council of the City of Taft, Texas.

CITY OF TAFT, TEXAS



Pedro Lopez, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jennifer Pineda